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Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Australia,* Austria,* Azerbaijan,* Bosnia and Herzegovina,* Bulgaria,* Chile,* Croatia, Cyprus,* Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Haiti,* Honduras,* Hungary, Iceland,* Italy,* Luxembourg,* Maldives,* Mexico,* Montenegro,* Morocco,* Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru,* Philippines, Poland,* Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova,* Romania,* Spain,* Turkey,* Ukraine,* United States of America, Uruguay,* State of Palestine:* draft resolution

35/... Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and all relevant human rights instruments,

Acknowledging the crucial role that parliaments play in, inter alia, translating international commitments into national policies and laws, including by supporting the implementation of recommendations generated by the international human rights mechanisms, especially the recommendations supported by the State concerned in the framework of the universal periodic review, as appropriate, and hence their contribution to the fulfilment by each State Member of the United Nations of its human rights obligations and commitments and to the strengthening of the rule of law,

Taking note of the successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 2010, in particular its resolution 65/123 of 13 December 2010, in which the Assembly recognized the importance of continued parliamentary support for the work of the Human Rights Council, and 66/261 of 29 May 2012, in which it encouraged the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organization of national parliaments, to strengthen its contribution to the Council, particularly with regard to the universal periodic review, as well as resolution 68/272 of 19 May 2014, in which the Assembly welcomed the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Council,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

Recalling its resolutions 22/15 of 21 March 2013, 26/29 of 27 June 2014 and 30/14 of 1 October 2015, on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review,

Taking note with appreciation of the summary report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussion on taking stock of the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review and identifying ways to enhance further that contribution, held on 22 June 2016,

Considering the continued efforts by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to enhance parliamentary engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council, including its activities with parliaments of countries that are reviewed under the universal periodic review, as well as the collaboration established since 2008 between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by, inter alia, making reference to the role of parliaments in the concluding observations of the Committee to States parties,

Noting with interest the recent publication by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of *Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 26*, to assist parliamentarians in fulfilling their responsibilities to promote and protect human rights,

Considering that the Human Rights Council and parliaments stand to gain considerably from continuing to explore possible synergies to ensure that the universal periodic review has the greatest impact at the national level,

1. *Encourages* States, in accordance with their national legal framework, to promote the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the universal periodic review reporting process, inter alia through the inclusion of the national parliament as a relevant stakeholder in the consultation process for the national report and in the implementation of supported recommendations by the State concerned, and to report on such involvement in their national report and voluntary mid-term reports or during the interactive dialogue session of the universal periodic review;

2. *Welcomes* the growing practice by States under review of including parliamentarians in their national delegations to the universal periodic review, and encourages States, as appropriate, to continue this practice;

3. *Invites* the High Commissioner to provide the Human Rights Council with regular updates on the parliamentary capacity-building and awareness-raising activities carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation and coordination with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as on related activities with regard to the work of the Council and its universal periodic review;

4. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to promote and enhance cooperation between their national parliaments and national human rights institutions and civil society in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a study, in close cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and in consultation with States, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders, on how to promote and enhance synergies between the parliaments and the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-eighth session, in order to provide States and other relevant stakeholders with elements that could serve as orientation to strengthen their interaction towards the effective promotion and protection of human rights;

6. *Encourages* all relevant human rights mechanisms to consider the present resolution, within the framework of their respective mandates;

7. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue under the same agenda item.